

that he could've raised those 200 pounds
SHOULD have
prolonged that 39 year old poet's life
improbable as that may sound

NOIRET

know who I mean?
first name Philippe
it isn't his appearance
he'd be easy to overlook
unless you'd seen him work
the selection of roles
what he's brought to them
Hitchcock used him once
only for a few minutes
near the end of Topaz
an unexceptional film
check him as a detective in
My New Partner
you've never seen that kind of truth
on an American screen
as a projectionist in Cinema Paradiso
incredibly touching
an agent in French Intelligence
the incisive Birgit Haas Must Be Killed
the ineffectual but deadly constable
in Clean Slate
one of Three Brothers
again as a judge
but quite different than he had been
in the Judge and the Assassin
check him out
clearly an actor who can also think

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MISFITS LATELY?

none of the nasty things written
about the private affairs of the principals
matter a damn
to what's happening in front of that camera
Monroe was never better
in a straight part
before that
she only seems relaxed in musicals
this time she's going for the truth
with excellent support
from Thelma Ritter
Montgomery Clift
Eli Wallach

& the nominal star — Clark Gable
with that hammy grin of his
to the very last
he's the weakest link
but compared to the crap
he'd been churning out
there were moments at least
when he was ok
it's black & white
decidedly downbeat
but I must say
it stands up remarkably well

ONE FOR TRANSFORMATION

in three stages
let's take Dick Powell
a sappy tenor in the '30s
a very knowing Phil Marlowe in the '40s
a director in the '50s
ever see The Conqueror?
John Wayne as Ghengis Khan?
Dick Powell directed it
on a nuclear testing site in '55
all the principals got cancer
including Dick
John Wayne
Susan Hayward
Agnes Moorehead
Pedro Armendariz
all for a ridiculous picture
so what's the point?
a guy who wanted to be more
than an average singer in film musicals
graduates
to further absurdities

CAUGHT OFFGUARD

my father leaned in my direction
& planted a kiss on the side of my face
told me good luck
that was it
he was off
I can remember the most trivial dates
not that one
Spring of '61
that's all I remember
7 years later
landing at JFK from Italy